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-----MEDIA RELEASE-----

MAYOR PEREZ WELCOMES THE RETURN OF CIRQUE DU SOLEIL!

(September 20, 2005)--- Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez is proud to welcome the return of the internationally known Cirque du Soleil. This is the second time the Canadian group is performing in the Capital City--- which is also playing host to cast and crew members.

Mayor Perez says, "It is important for Hartford to support this magical theatrical performance and important for the City and its residents to roll out the welcome mat to the troupe, for they will be staying, shopping, and dining in New England's Rising Star."

Visitors have traveled from New York, New Jersey, and all over New England to see this world-class event. Mayor Perez says, "This is the kind of performance that continues to position Hartford as an entertainment destination."

The City of Hartford provided Cirque du Soleil with significant assistance to make their triumphant return engagement on Market Street. The Hartford Police Department, Fire Marshall's Office, Health Department, Public Works, Economic Development Division, and the Hartford Image Project all had a hand in making the 11 Varekai performances possible. The shows run from September 22nd to October 9th.

For more information on Cirque du Soleil, contact Laura Soll at (860) 688-4499.